

**KINGSTON HILL ACADEMY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MEETING MINUTES**

June 19, 2013

5:00 p.m.

**Members Present:** Dr. John Nazarian, Dr. June Groden, Anne Kuzminsky, Helen Morcos, Stephen Panikoff, Debra Deion, Johnna Bicknell, Dr. Patricia Wisocki, Lorraine Melillo

**Recording Secretary:** Linda Ollari

**Members Absent:** Dr. Ellen Nelson, Lisa Davis, Rob Raposo

**Guests:** Linda Paolillo, Alison Santerre-Raymond, Jennifer Dwyer (Parent)

Dr. Nazarian called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**1. Approval of Minutes from May 8, 2013 Meeting**

Dr. Nazarian requested a motion to receive the minutes of the May 8, 2013 Board meeting.

The motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

**2. Retirement of Principal – Review Applicant for Position**

The Board members wished Stephen Panikoff well in his retirement; Stephen was Principal at Kingston Hill Academy (KHA) for five years. The position of Principal of KHA was posted on June 7, 2013 and will remain active for a period of two weeks (until June 21, 2013). One application has been received. Dr. Groden commended Stephen for bringing KHA to commendable status all five years.

**3. Annual Meeting – Election of Officers**

Dr. Nazarian requested nominations from the Board members.

Helen Morcos nominated Dr. Nazarian for President. Being no other nominations, Dr. Nazarian requested the Secretary to cast one vote in favor of the nominee.

Dr. Groden nominated Anne Kuzminsky for Vice President. Being no other nominations, Dr. Nazarian requested the Secretary to cast one vote in favor of the nominee.

Helen Morcos nominated Dr. Groden for Secretary. Being no other nominations, Dr. Nazarian requested the Secretary to cast one vote in favor of the nominee.

Dr. Groden nominated Helen Morcos for Treasurer. Being no other nominations, Dr. Nazarian requested the Secretary to cast one vote in favor of the nominee.

**4. Special Education and School Configuration/Expansion Discussion**

The Board members have not discussed this agenda item. The KHA budget is not balanced; Helen Morcos expects an answer regarding the grant for an additional Special Education Teacher Aide position by June 28. Dr. Groden asked if there had been discussion by the League of Charter Schools or RIDE to increase the amount of money for special education. Linda Paolillo reported that she attended a meeting recently in which all charter schools were represented; the State is trying to come up with alternate ways to spread the cost. Helen Morcos reported that RIDE is decreasing its funding. Dr. Nazarian recommended holding over this agenda item until the State budget has been announced. Dr. Nazarian asked the Board members if they would be willing to attend a special meeting in July in order to discuss just this agenda item. Linda Ollari collected the Board members' available dates and will contact the absent members for their available dates. Anne Kuzminsky asked if anyone would be able to attend the special meeting. Dr. Nazarian commented that the regular meeting scheduled for

August 21 meeting might be a better meeting for others to attend as there would be more to report at that time.

## **5. Financial Report – Helen Morcos**

KHA has a fund balance of approximately \$69,000 as of April 30, but with many outstanding invoices. KHA expects to break even at the end of the year.

The transportation costs are very high and incoming tuition is lower. Tuition received from municipalities break even, but tuition payments received from the State are lower. Payments from the State budget for KHA remains at approximately \$2.8M for 2012, 2013, and 2014. Staff salaries have increased but revenue is not increasing.

KHA has \$500,000 earmarked for building expansion and \$500,000 is undesignated.

Anne Kuzminsky inquired if the State is expecting schools to be active in grant writing? Helen Morcos replied that Toni Lauteri, the new Director of Marketing and Development at Groden, is very good in grant writing and will soon be undertaking that role.

Dr. Groden inquired about the celebration of the brick campaign. Stephen Panikoff reported that graduation is not an ideal time for the celebration due to logistics. A suggestion was made to hold the celebration on opening day in the fall. Parents and all those involved in the brick campaign should be notified well in advance of the celebration. It was suggested that this agenda item also be discussed at the July special meeting and that Toni Lauteri should attend in order to discuss how to advertise the celebration and what the celebration should consist of.

The Champlin Foundation reduced the amount of money requested in the soccer field grant application and requested that KHA make an in-kind contribution. Helen Morcos contacted Anne Considine, the Chairman of the Groden Network Gala, and she agreed to dedicate gala funds to the soccer field initiative. Jennifer Dwyer (parent) asked if the soccer field and grounds fall into the money that is set aside for the building expansion. Dr. Nazarian replied that once a final decision has been made by The Champlin Foundation, KHA will be notified how they can use the funds.

## **6. Five-Year Capital Improvement – Helen Morcos**

On agenda in error; no discussion.

## **7. Charter School Planning Committee**

Helen Morcos verified with Attorney Chris Little that the members of the Charter School Planning Committee would be the President/Chairman of the Board of Trustees (Dr. Nazarian), the CEO of The Groden Center (Helen Morcos), the Principal of Kingston Hill Academy (Stephen Panikoff), and any additional members not to exceed five. The Committee is responsible for developing long and short range planning for the Corporation and make recommendations to the Board.

## **8. Director's Report**

### **a. Assistant Director's Report Regarding Curriculum and Teacher Professional Development**

Rhode Island is transitioning to the PARCC assessment (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers). PARCC is a consortium of 22 states that are working together through a Race to the Top assessment grant to develop a K-12 assessment system aligned to the Common Core in English language arts/literacy and mathematics. PARCC will be implemented in the 2014-2015 school year. NECAP (New England Common Assessment Program) will continue to be implemented for the 2013-2014 school year. PARCC participants are being asked to participate in field testing; schools will be notified in August. One group of KHA students will be taking both NECAP and PARCC.

Anne Kuzminsky asked if the State is still requiring proficiency in order to earn high school diplomas; Linda Paolillo reported that RIDE is developing rules governing waivers.

## **9. Future School Bus Contract for KHA and Compass School**

The League of Charter Schools has asked three bus companies for bids to bus students for the 15 area charter schools. More information should be available mid-July.

Summer school is being held Aug 5-16 (10 days). The cost is \$3300 for one bus. The attorney for KHA is drafting a letter to parents asking them to drive their child to summer school at the mileage reimbursement rate of 56.5 cents/mile. If all parents agree, KHA will cancel bussing for summer school this year.

## **8. Staggered Terms for Members**

Dr. Nazarian suggested pulling numbers to determine staggered terms. All members agreed and the results are as follows:

| <u>1-year term</u>   | <u>2-year term</u> | <u>3-year term</u> |
|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Dr. Patricia Wisocki | Johnna Bicknell    | Dr. June Groden    |
| Anne Kuzminsky       | Debra Deion        | Helen Morcos       |
|                      | Dr. John Nazarian  | Lorraine Melillo   |

Terms for absent members (Dr. Ellen Nelson, Lisa Davis, and Rob Raposo) will need to be determined. Stephen Panikoff did not participate due to his upcoming retirement in August.

## **Parent Comments/Staff Comments**

Mary Adkins (parent) has a son in 4<sup>th</sup> grade and is very concerned about the harmful effects of wireless technology. She was not able to attend this meeting, but provided handouts for the Board members to review. This item will be discussed at a subsequent meeting.

Dr. Nazarian recommended having the special meeting first in order to study the Allison's proposal. The Board members asked Allison to email her proposal to them. Allison stated that many items in her proposal do not require spending money.

## **Old Business**

None

## **Adjournment**

Helen Morcos moved to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Dr. Groden. The motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 6:21 p.m.

Next meeting date: August 21, 2013

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